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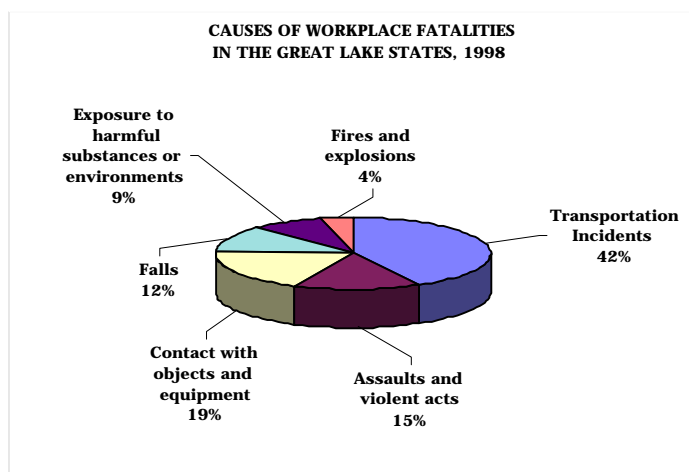
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FATAL WORK INJURIES IN THE GREAT LAKES STATES IN 1998

The number of fatal work injuries in the Great Lakes states totaled 916 in 1998, down by 75 fatalities from the previous year and the lowest count since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began publishing data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 1992. Peter J. Hebein, Regional Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Chicago, stated that the lower fatality count was the result of reductions in work-related deaths caused by assaults and violent acts (down 25), transportation incidents (down 19), and contact with objects and equipment (down 16).

Transportation-related incidents continued to account for the largest number of deaths (384), representing 42 percent of all fatal work injuries in 1998. This was more than the next two leading causes of work-related fatalities combined. Contact with objects and equipment was responsible for 170 or 19 percent of fatalities. Assaults and violent acts led to 139 or 15 percent of fatalities in the Great Lakes states. (See table 1.)

Workers in the Great Lakes states made up 19 percent of the Nation's employment and accounted for 15 percent of the job-related deaths. Nationally, fatal work injuries totaled 6,026 in 1998, down 3.4 percent from 1997. In comparison, fatalities in the Great Lakes states were down 7.6 percent over the year. The Great Lakes states include Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.



Detailed Profile of Fatal Work Injuries

Within the transportation incident category, just over one-half of the fatalities were highway-related (207) , of which collisions between vehicles or mobile equipment accounted for 128. Workers struck by a vehicle led to 63 deaths, and incidents involving aircraft totaled 24. (See table 2.)

Of the 170 work-related fatalities caused by contacts with objects and equipment, 78 were struck by objects, 60 were caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, and 27 were caught in or crushed by collapsing materials.

In the assaults and violent acts category, homicides accounted for 99 deaths, or just over 70 percent of the fatalities in this category; self-inflicted injuries made up the remainder.

Occupational profiles

The distribution of fatal injuries by occupational group varied only slightly from the national average. Those engaged in transportation and material moving operations made up one-fifth of all work-related fatalities with 180 deaths. Within this occupational grouping, truck drivers were the workers most likely to be fatally impacted, accounting for 127 deaths. Other occupations experiencing a high number of job fatalities included handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers (97), construction trades (96), and farming operators and managers (84). Among the remaining occupations, those with sales jobs accounted for 6 percent of all work-place fatalities or 59 deaths. Police and detectives experienced 2 percent of the total fatalities with 17 work-related deaths. (See table 3.)

Industry profiles

About one-half of all work-related fatalities in the Great Lakes states occurred in three industry divisions – construction, manufacturing, and transportation and public utilities. The construction industry experienced the largest number of fatalities, 162, accounting for 18 percent of the total. Half of these fatalities occurred among the special trades contractors. Manufacturing accounted for 147 fatalities or 16 percent. Transportation and public utilities recorded 135 fatalities representing 15 percent of the total. Of these, almost two-thirds (85) occurred in trucking and warehousing. (See table 4.)

Although the vast majority of fatalities occurred among private industry workers, almost one in ten involved government employees. Of the 78 fatalities among government employees in the Great Lakes states, more than half (44) worked in local government.

Worker characteristics

Of the 916 work related fatalities in the Great Lakes states, 834 or 91 percent, were men. Workers in the prime working age groups from 25 to 54 accounted for almost two-thirds of all fatalities (587). On either end of the age spectrum, workers under the age of 20 recorded 20 fatalities and workers 65 years and over accounted for 112 fatalities. Self-employed workers accounted for 171 fatalities or almost one of five fatalities in the Great Lakes states. (See table 5)

Additional Data Available

Data tables for 1998 are available for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and selected metropolitan areas. These tables may be obtained from the Bureau's automated Fax-on-Demand service using the document numbers listed below

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Chicago (312) 353-1880	Number of pages	Document no.
Fatal occupational injuries in selected metropolitan areas in 1998 by 1) event or exposure, 2) selected worker characteristics (sex, age, race), 3) occupational group, 4) industry division, and 5) resulting from transportation incidents and assaults and violent acts.	3	9665
Fatal occupational injuries in 1998 by State (50 states and D.C.) and 1) event or exposure, 2) industry division, 3) occupational group, and 4) and state and local government.	5	9653
Fatal occupational injuries in 1998 by 1) event or exposure, 2) selected worker characteristics (sex, age, race), 3) occupational group, and 4) industry division for the State of:		
- Illinois:	7	9654
- Indiana:	4	9655
- Michigan:	5	9656
- Minnesota:	4	9657
- Ohio:	5	9658
- Wisconsin:	4	9659

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS safety and health statistics program, provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available because it uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

This is the seventh year that the fatality census has been conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The BLS fatality census is a federal/state cooperative venture in which costs are shared equally. State-specific data on workplace fatalities in the region can be requested from the following state agencies in the region participating with BLS in the census program.

<u>State</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 785-1873
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2665
Michigan	Department of Consumer and Industry Services	(517) 322-5258
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(651) 296-3885
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Wisconsin	Department of Workforce Development Workers' Compensation Division	(608) 266-7850

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 1998 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation's, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses are not reported in the BLS census and are excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic. Partial information on fatal occupational illnesses, compiled separately, is available in BLS Report 913.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources—including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports—as well as news reports. Multiple sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Federal/state agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Great Lake states,¹ 1994-1998

Event or exposure ²	Number of Fatalities				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total	1,022	941	961	991	916
.....					
Transportation incidents	416	376	371	403	384
.....					
Highway	213	203	187	197	207
.....					
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	113	121	108	105	128
.....					
Noncollision accident	55	38	41	41	44
.....					
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water	68	75	63	69	67
.....					
Aircraft	57	21	35	42	24
.....					
Worker struck by vehicle	54	51	67	74	63
.....					
Railway	-	22	10	14	11
.....					
Assaults and violent acts	181	181	171	164	139
.....					
Homicides	134	105	128	128	99
.....					
Shooting	117	87	108	110	85
.....					
Self-inflicted injuries	37	38	37	26	38
.....					
Contact with objects and equipment	181	155	183	186	170
.....					
Struck by object	92	81	90	88	78
.....					
Struck by falling object	51	41	55	53	47
.....					
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	59	57	71	71	60
.....					
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	28	17	22	25	27
.....					
Falls	102	108	113	124	109
.....					
Fall to lower level	91	97	104	110	90
.....					
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	112	113	94	78	80
.....					
Contact with electric current	52	60	46	45	43
.....					
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	23	22	23	13	20
.....					
Oxygen deficiency	12	-	16	14	12
.....					

Fires and explosions	24	37	28	33	35
.....					
Other events or exposures ³	6	4	--	3	--
.....					

¹ Includes the following States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

² Based on the BLS 1992 Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

³ Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion".

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1994-1998.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Great Lakes states and United States, 1998.

Event or exposure ²	Fatalities			
	United States		Great Lakes States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,026	100	916	100
.....				
Transportation incidents	2,630	44	384	42
.....				
Highway	1,431	24	207	23
.....				
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	701	12	128	14
.....				
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment	306	5	23	3
.....				
Noncollision	373	6	44	5
.....				
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	384	6	67	7
.....				
Aircraft	223	4	24	3
.....				
Worker struck by vehicle	413	7	63	7
.....				
Water vehicle	112	2	9	1
.....				
Railway	60	1	11	1
.....				
Assaults and violent acts	960	16	139	15
.....				
Homicides	709	12	99	11
.....				
Shooting	569	9	85	9
.....				
Stabbing	61	1	6	1
.....				
Self-inflicted injuries	223	4	38	4
.....				
Contact with objects and equipment	941	16	170	19
.....				
Struck by object	517	9	78	9
.....				
Struck by falling object	317	5	47	5
.....				
Struck by flying object	58	1	5	1
.....				
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	266	4	60	7
.....				
Caught in running equipment or machinery	129	2	29	3
.....				
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	140	2	27	3
.....				
Falls	702	12	109	12
Fall to lower level	623	10	90	10
.....				

Fall from ladder	111	2	17	2
.....				
Fall from roof	156	3	21	2
.....				
Fall from scaffold	97	2	15	2
.....				
Fall on same level	51	1	12	1
.....				
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	572	9	80	9
.....				
Contact with electric current	334	6	43	5
.....				
Contact with overhead powerlines	153	3	21	2
.....				
Contact with temperature extremes	46	1	5	1
.....				
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	104	2	20	2
.....				
Oxygen deficiency	87	1	12	1
.....				
Drowning, submersion	75	1	11	1
.....				
Fires and Explosions	205	3	35	4
.....				
Other events or exposures ³	16	-	--	-
.....				

¹ Includes the following States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

² Based on the BLS 1992 Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

³ Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion".

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to total due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, Great Lake states¹ and United States, 1998

Occupation ²	Fatalities			
	United States		Great Lakes States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,026	100	916	100
.....				
Managerial and professional specialty	637	11	120	13
.....				
Executive, administrative, and managerial	408	7	84	9
.....				
Professional specialty	229	4	36	4
.....				
Technical, sales, and administrative support	678	11	94	10
.....				
Technicians and related support occupations	168	3	18	2
.....				
Sales occupations	396	7	59	6
.....				
Administrative Support occupations, including clerical	114	2	17	2
.....				
Service occupations	439	7	55	6
.....				
Protective service occupations	257	4	34	4
.....				
Firefighting and fire prevention occupations	45	1	7	1
.....				
Police and detectives	137	2	17	2
.....				
Guards	75	1	8	1
.....				
Farming, forestry, and fishing	921	15	150	16
.....				
Farming operators and managers	370	6	84	9
.....				
Other agricultural and related occupations	361	6	66	7
.....				
Forestry and logging occupations	118	2	13	1
.....				
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,084	18	167	18
.....				
Mechanics and repairers	284	5	45	5
.....				
Construction trades	631	10	96	10
.....				
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,151	36	329	36
.....				
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	221	4	52	6
.....				
Transportation and material moving operations	1,257	21	180	20
.....				
Motor vehicle operators	1020	17	150	16

..... Truck drivers	879	15	127	14
..... Material moving equipment operators	197	3	21	2
..... Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	673	11	97	11
..... Construction laborers	335	6	45	5
..... Laborers, except construction	192	3	32	3
..... Military occupations ³	88	1	--	---

¹ Includes the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

² Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

³ Resident armed forces

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to total due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1998.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Great Lakes states ¹ and United States, 1998

Industry ²	Fatalities			
	United States		Great Lakes States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,026	100	916	100
Private industry	5,428	90	836	91
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	831	14	131	14
Agricultural production - crops	378	6	67	7
Agricultural production - livestock	174	3	36	4
Agricultural services	167	3	12	1
Mining	146	2	9	1
Construction	1,171	19	162	18
General building contractors	212	4	38	4
Heavy construction, except building	271	4	36	4
Special trades contractors	679	11	87	9
Manufacturing	694	12	147	16
Food and kindred products	72	1	13	1
Lumber and wood products	170	3	15	2
Primary metal industries	46	1	21	2
Fabricated metal products	49	1	16	2
Transportation equipment	61	1	13	1
Transportation and public utilities	909	15	135	15
Local and interurban passenger transportation	85	1	14	2
Trucking and warehousing	562	9	85	9
Transportation by air	74	1	6	1
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	83	1	13	1
Wholesale trade	228	4	39	4
Retail trade	569	9	85	9
Food stores	135	2	17	2

Automotive dealers and service stations	119	2	22	2
Eating and drinking places	107	2	11	1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	92	2	13	1
Services	757	13	114	12
Business services	194	3	--	--
Automotive repair, services, and parking	132	2	14	2
Government ³	598	10	78	9
Federal (Including resident armed forces)	164	3	7	1
State	135	2	27	3
Local	295	5	44	5
Industry not reported	--	--	3	--

¹ Includes the following States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

² Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 edition.

³ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to total due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1998.

Table 5. Fatal Occupational injuries by selected worker characteristics, Great Lake states¹ and United States, 1998

Characteristics	Fatalities			
	United States		Great Lakes States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,026	100	916	100
Employee status				
Wage and salary workers	4,782	79	711	78
Self-employed ²	1,244	21	171	19
Sex and age				
Men	5,544	92	834	91
Women	482	8	83	9
Both Sexes ³				
Under 20 years	201	3	20	2

..... 20 to 24 years	418	7	53	6
..... 25 to 34 years	1,233	20	162	18
..... 35 to 44 years	1,521	25	237	26
..... 45 to 54 years	1,271	21	188	21
..... 55 to 64 years	835	14	145	16
..... 65 years and over	534	9	112	12
.....				
Race				
White	5,016	83	812	89
.....				
Black	591	10	80	9
.....				
Asian or Pacific Islander	148	2	7	1
.....				
Other or not reported	243	4	8	1
.....				
Hispanic origin				
Hispanic ⁴	700	12	32	3
.....				

¹ Includes the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

² Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

³ There were 14 U.S. fatalities for which age was not reported.

⁴ Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to total due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1998.